

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for locating available parking comprising:
  - a) receiving a request initiated by a mobile terminal to identify available parking;
  - b) determining a location of the mobile terminal;
  - c) identifying the available parking based on the location of the mobile terminal; and
  - d) effecting delivery of parking information bearing on the available parking to the mobile terminal.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step includes expanding the location of the mobile terminal into an associated area of interest and the identifying step identifies parking areas or facilities within the area of interest and identifies the available parking at the parking areas or facilities within the area of interest.
3. The method of claim 2 further comprising determining a direction of travel for the mobile terminal and wherein the expanding step uses the direction of travel when creating the area of interest.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising effecting delivery of directions associated with the available parking to a user via the mobile terminal.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising effecting delivery of a map associated with the available parking to a user via the mobile terminal.

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6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- a) receiving a request initiated by the mobile terminal to reserve parking associated with the available parking; and
  - b) requesting a reservation associated with the available parking.
7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:
- a) receiving confirmation for the reservation; and
  - b) delivering confirmation indicia based on the confirmation to the mobile terminal, wherein the confirmation indicia can be provided to a parking area or facility providing the available parking to confirm the reservation.
8. The method of claim 7 further comprising delivering the confirmation indicia to the parking area or facility.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying step further comprises:
- a) accessing a profile associated with the mobile terminal to access parking criteria defined by a user of the mobile terminal; and
  - b) selecting the available parking based on the parking criteria in the profile.
10. The method of claim 1 further comprising gathering information bearing on the availability of parking in at least one parking area or facility and from which the available parking is determined.

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11. The method of claim 1 further comprising accounting for services associated with providing the parking information.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein communications with the mobile terminal are facilitated using one of the group consisting of text, audio, and browser based communication technologies.
13. A system for locating available parking comprising:
  - a) a network interface; and
  - b) a control system associated with the network interface and adapted to:
    - i) receive a request initiated by a mobile terminal to identify available parking;
    - ii) determine a location of the mobile terminal;
    - iii) identify the available parking based on the location of the mobile terminal; and
    - iv) effect delivery of parking information bearing on the available parking to the mobile terminal.
14. The system of claim 13 wherein the control system is further adapted to expand the location of the mobile terminal into an associated area of interest, identify parking areas or facilities within the area of interest, and identify the available parking at the parking areas or facilities within the area of interest.
15. The system of claim 14 wherein the control system is further adapted to determine a direction of travel

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for the mobile terminal and use the direction of travel when creating the area of interest.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the control system is further adapted to effect delivery of directions associated with the available parking to a user via the mobile terminal.
17. The system of claim 13 wherein the control system is further adapted to effect delivery of a map associated with the available parking to a user via the mobile terminal.
18. The system of claim 13 wherein the control system is further adapted to:
  - a) receive a request initiated by the mobile terminal to reserve parking associated with the available parking; and
  - b) request a reservation associated with the available parking.
19. The system of claim 18 wherein the control system is further adapted to:
  - a) receive confirmation for the reservation; and
  - b) deliver confirmation indicia based on the confirmation to the mobile terminal, wherein the confirmation indicia can be provided to a parking area or facility providing the available parking to confirm the reservation.
20. The system of claim 19 wherein the control system is further adapted to deliver the confirmation indicia to the parking area or facility.

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21. The system of claim 13 wherein, to identify the available parking, the control system is further adapted to:
- a) access a profile associated with the mobile terminal to access parking criteria defined by a user of the mobile terminal; and
  - b) select the available parking based on the parking criteria in the profile.
22. The system of claim 13 wherein the control system is further adapted to gather information bearing on the availability of parking in at least one parking area or facility and from which the available parking is determined.
23. The system of claim 13 wherein the control system is further adapted to account for services associated with providing the parking information.
24. The system of claim 13 wherein communications with the mobile terminal are facilitated using one of the group consisting of text, audio, and browser based communication technologies.
25. A computer readable medium providing software for locating available parking, the computer readable medium comprising instructions to:
- a) receive a request initiated by a mobile terminal to identify available parking;
  - b) determine a location of the mobile terminal;
  - c) identify the available parking based on the location of the mobile terminal; and
  - d) effect delivery of parking information bearing on the available parking to the mobile terminal.

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26. The computer readable medium of claim 25 comprising further instructions to expand the location of the mobile terminal into an associated area of interest, identify parking areas or facilities within the area of interest, and identify the available parking at the parking areas or facilities within the area of interest.
27. The computer readable medium of claim 26 comprising further instructions to determine a direction of travel for the mobile terminal and use the direction of travel when creating the area of interest.
28. The computer readable medium of claim 25 comprising further instructions to effect delivery of directions associated with the available parking to a user via the mobile terminal.
29. The computer readable medium of claim 25 comprising further instructions to effect delivery of a map associated with the available parking to a user via the mobile terminal.
30. The computer readable medium of claim 25 comprising further instructions to:
- receive a request initiated by the mobile terminal to reserve parking associated with the available parking; and
  - request a reservation associated with the available parking.
31. The computer readable medium of claim 30 comprising further instructions to:

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- a) receive confirmation for the reservation; and  
b) deliver confirmation indicia based on the confirmation to the mobile terminal, wherein the confirmation indicia can be provided to a parking area or facility providing the available parking to confirm the reservation.
32. The computer readable medium of claim 31 wherein the control system is further adapted to deliver the confirmation indicia to the parking area or facility.
33. The computer readable medium of claim 25 comprising further instructions, when identifying the available parking, to:
- a) access a profile associated with the mobile terminal to access parking criteria defined by a user of the mobile terminal; and  
b) select the available parking based on the parking criteria in the profile.
34. The computer readable medium of claim 25 comprising further instructions to gather information bearing on the availability of parking in at least one parking area or facility and from which the available parking is determined.
35. The computer readable medium of claim 25 comprising further instructions to account for services associated with providing the parking information.
36. The computer readable medium of claim 25 wherein communications with the mobile terminal are effected

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using one of the group consisting of text, audio, and browser based communication technologies.

37. A system for locating available parking comprising:

- a) means for receiving a request initiated by a mobile terminal to identify available parking;
- b) means for determining a location of the mobile terminal;
- c) means for identifying the available parking based on the location of the mobile terminal; and
- d) means for effecting delivery of parking information bearing on the available parking to the mobile terminal.

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